

ENGLISH

Get around in safety

To ensure that cycling is safe and enjoyable, here is Article 14 of the Pedestrian and Vehicle Traffic Ordinance that implements and supplements the General Traffic Regulations. Your safety is everybody's safety.

Article 14. Bicycles

- 1. Bicycles shall be ridden on separate bike lanes or, in their absence, in order of priority, on the other types of bike lanes, on roadways in 30-km speed limit areas or on ways specifically marked for such purpose. When none of these options exist, bicycles shall be ridden on the roadway. Likewise, when compliance is made with the provisions of Point 6 of this article, bicycles may be ridden on pavements.
- 2. When it runs along the pavement, pedestrians may cross the bike lane but not block it or walk along it. Cyclists shall always grant the right of way to pedestrians who cross a bike lane. The speed limit for bicycles along such bike lanes is 20 km/h.
- 3. When the bike lane runs along the roadway, pedestrians are obliged to cross it at duly marked places and may not occupy the bike lane or walk along it.
- 4. When cyclists ride along the roadway, they are obliged to do so in the lane nearest the pavement, although they may occupy the middle of such lane. When it is expressly permitted and marked, bicycles may be ridden along the lanes reserved for other types of vehicles.
- 5. Bicycles ridden as vehicles along the roadway will have the rights of way provided in the respective traffic regulations in force.
- 6. In the event that there is no bike lane or any other type of way specified in Point 14.1 above, bicycles may be ridden in the following places, unless there is a crowding of pedestrians:
- a) pavements, pedestrian lanes and walkways of over 5 metres in width with a clear passage of 3 metres in width.
- b) public parks and pedestrian areas.
- c) pedestrian priority zones, in both directions of travel.

For the purposes of this article, it will be considered that pedestrian crowding exists when it is not possible to maintain a distance of at least 1 metre between a ridden bicycle and pedestrians, or when it is not possible to ride a bicycle 5 metres in a straight line without interruption.

The conditions for cycling in the aforementioned places reserved for pedestrians are as follows:

- a) Cyclists shall always grant pedestrians the right of way.
- b) Cyclists shall adapt their speed to that of the pedestrians, without ever exceeding 10 km/h.
- c) Cyclists shall refrain from making any manoeuvre that may affect pedestrians' safety and they shall remain at a distance of at least 1 metre from pedestrians when riding.
- d) Cyclists shall avoid riding closer than 1 metre to the façades of buildings.
- 7. Along urban streets and ways with special uses or with frequent crowding and/or gathering of people, the City Council shall establish the restrictions that it deems appropriate, suitably marking the respective areas and providing alternative routes.
- 8. Cyclists may not ride their bicycle on one wheel alone and neither may they take hold of other vehicles in motion while they are cycling.
- 9. The drivers of motor vehicles who intend to pass a cyclist shall do so with special care, changing lanes on passing and assuring that a lateral distance of at least 1.5 metres remains between the bicycle and the respective motor vehicle.

When driving behind a bicycle, the drivers of motor vehicles shall maintain a prudent safety distance proportional to their speed and such distance shall never be less than 3 metres.

- 10. Vehicles other than bicycles may not use or block bike lanes.
- 11. Bicycles shall be equipped with a bell and when they are ridden at night they shall be equipped with approved lights and reflectors (white in front and red in back) that allow them to be seen correctly by pedestrians and the drivers of other vehicles.
- 12. Bicycles may tow a trailer approved for the transport of persons, animals or goods if the rider is of age and under the rider's responsibility.

Bicycles which are not built to be ridden by more than one person may, however, carry a child up to the age of 7 years if the rider operating the bicycle is of age and under his or her responsibility. The child shall sit on an additional seat and wear a helmet, both of which shall be approved models.

- 13. Bicycles shall preferably be parked in places designated for such purpose, leaving a clear passage of at least 3 metres in width for pedestrians. It is expressly forbidden to attach bicycles to trees, traffic lights, benches, wastepaper baskets, etc., or to park them in front of areas reserved for loading and unloading from the roadway during the hours marked for such purpose, in front of parking areas for people with a disability, in areas where parking is forbidden as provided in Point 34.3 of this Ordinance, at public transport stops, at pedestrian crossings, in areas designated for the parking of public-use bicycles, or in or attached to elements abutting on façades.
- 14. The bicycle parking areas situated on the public way are reserved solely and exclusively for bicycles.
- 15. The provisions of Article 63 of this Ordinance concerning the impoundment of vehicles apply to bicycles, especially when they are damaging public property as a result of being parked in places where it is expressly forbidden.